

LOOKING AT THE UNICORN TAPESTRIES

1

this one's for anne's
marriage to louis
full of fruits and
collars stags a
hyena rabbits a
unicorn's horn in
a stream to suck
up poison, nothing
as simple as it seems

2

here some pieces of
cloth are missing
but we know anne by
her rings. (was the
rug eaten by animals
spread over corn to
keep it from freezing)
does anne compare her
rings her sleeves,
22 and buying black
velvet to wear when
charles dies. is she
already thinking of
louis fingers on the
skin where the blue
and gold cloth stops

3

the notes say how we
know his long fingers.
but no one is sure what
the squirrel means

4

in the fourth
the flags are a new color.
anne looks older suddenly
as if she'd prefer fewer
people but couldn't change
that. louis gold and yellow
in the background. the
people seem too huge
for the castle

5

the marriage contract
sealed the unicorn
caught in chains. (does
anne dream the years
in front of these threads,
the beast tied to the
pomegranate tree, the
end and the beginning,
the ripening fruit in
the tree of her body

PULLING THE TOWER OF BABEL OUT OF DUST

out of the plains of
old mesopotamia
in the ruins of babylon

deep under a field of
water men are
reading wedge
shaped writing

the euphrates in the
distance sheep and
goats grazing in the
ruins of the palace
ringing of sheep bells

hammurabi and nebuchadnezzar
made love and died here
alexander the great
caught malaria
and couldn't leave

the bricks were lugged away
salt ate the stones
the hanging gardens

deep under the earth
now these rows of bulls
mythical beasts scaly
forked unicorns
with eagle claws

standing out in relief
from the flaking brickwork
their glazed colors
long since worn away